O-BRAZILE,

OR THE

Inchanted Island:

BEING

A perfect Relation of the late Discovery

AND

Wonderful Dis-Inchantment

OF AN

ISLAND

On the North of

IRELAND:

With an Account of the Riches and Commodities thereof.

Communicated by a Letter from *LONDON-DERRY*, to a Friend in *LONDON*.

In the *SAVOY*,

Printed by *Tho: Newcomb*, 1675.

O-Brazile:

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Late Diſcovery, and Wonderful Diſ-inchantment of an Iſland on the North of *Ireland*, &c.

Honoured Couſin,

I Have received yours of the 12*th* of *February*, and the Printed Relation of the certain Death of that Arch-Pirate Captain *Cuſacke*; of whoſe Death, all our Merchants here in *Ireland*, are very glad; eſpecially my Couſin *Matthew Calhoon*, from whom, *Cuſacke* took the laſt Veſſel; which, it ſeems, brought him to his deſerved fatal end. And in requital of your News concerning *Cuſacke*, I ſhall acquaint you with a Story no leſs true; but I believe much more ſtrange and wonderful, concerning the Diſcovery of that long-talk't-of Iſland *O-Brazile*, which (I believe) you have often heard of.

I know there are, in the World, many Stories, and Romances, concerning Inchanted Iſlands, Caſtles and

Towers, &c. And that our King's Dominions may in nothing be inferiour to any other Nation, we have had an Inchanted Island, upon the North of *Ireland*, long talkt of. And, indeed, when I went first into the Kingdom of *Ireland* to live, and heard those many Stories, which were common in every Mans mouth, concerning the Island of *O-Brazile*, (as they call'd it) which multitudes reported often to be seen upon the Coast of *Ulster* in that Kingdom; yet I lookt upon it as a perfect Romance, and many times laught the Reporters to scorn: Though many Sober, and Religious persons, would constantly affirm, That in bright days, (especially in Summer-time) they could perfectly see a very large absolute Island; but, after long looking at it, it would disappear. And sometimes one Friend and Neighbor, would one call another to behold it, until there would be a considerable Number together; every of which, would not be perswaded but that they perfectly saw it: and some of them, have made towards it with Boats; but when they have come to the place where they thought it was, they have found nothing. And many old People in the Countrey, would tell many old probable Stories, how it came first to be Inchanted. I confess there were (in those days) two things made me a little to wonder:

1. How it came to be inserted into many of our both Ancient and Modern Maps, (as you, or any Man may find it is) by the name of *O-Brazile*.

2. The other is, What moved your Cousin, (that, you know, dyed but within these four or five years at *Glass-lough*) who was a wise Man, and a great Scholar, to put himself to the charges and trouble,

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(in the late King's time) to take out a Patent for it, whenſoever it ſhould be gained: Certainly he, and thoſe that counſelled him to it, lookt upon it, as ſome Inchanted (if any ſuch thing there be) Kingdom or Iſland, that, in time, might be recovered. And ſince the Happy Reſtauration of His Majeſty that now Reigns, many Reports have been, That it hath been Diſ-inchanted, or Taken. Yea, in the time of the Sitting of the laſt Parliament in *Dublin*, (in the year 1663.) one coming out of *Ulſter*, aſſured the Houſe of Commons, (whereof he was a Member) That the Inchantment was broken, and it gained: but it proved not ſo. And about two years after, a certain Quaker pretended that he had a Revelation from Heaven, that he was the Man ordained to take it, with a new Ship built by his Inſpiration, *&c.* And in order thereunto, he built a Veſſel. But what became of him, or his Enterprize, I never heard; it ſeems the full time was not then come. I aſſure you (dear Couſin) I was not then ſo unwilling to believe it, as now I am certain of it, from very good hands. But whether (in the Original) it have been a Trick of *Rome*, one of the Works and Myſteries of *Babylon*, I cannot ſay, neither dare I diſpute: But this I am ſure of, That the Time, or Inchantment, (or what you pleaſe to call it) is now out, and the Iſland fully diſcovered, or taken. And the manner, briefly, thus:

There is nothing more certain, than that a Patent was taken out for it in the late King's dayes.

There is one Captain *John Nisbet*, who lived formerly at *Liſneskey* in the County of *Fermanagh*; this Man left *Liſneskey* ſeven or eight years ſince, and came to live at *Killebegs* in the Barony of *Boylagh* and

Ban-

Bannagh, in the County of *Dunnegall*, in *Ulster*, (a Corporation you know right well.) This Man, Captain *Nisbet*, since he came to *Killebegs*, hath fraught out several Vessels to *France* and *Holland*, &c. with such Merchandize as that Countrey afforded. And in *September* last, he fraught out a Vessel of about 70 Tuns, laden with Butter, Tallow, and Hydes, for *France*, which was to bring back French Wines. Which Vessel being returning, and near the Coasts of *Ireland* (as they thought) upon the second of this instant *March*, 1674. after a most clear frosty Night, in the Morning about the time of Sun-rising, of a sudden, there fell a most terrible thick Mist or Fog, upon the Sea, round about them; which continued the space of about three hours, and then cleared up again, very bright. But when the Mist was vanisht, they found themselves upon a certain Coast, close by the shore; and of a sudden also, a very high wind, driving them still nearer to the Land. When the Master, and the rest with him (who were but eight persons in all, *viz. James mac Donnel* the Master, *Alexander Johnson* Skipper, *James Ross* Carpenter, and five Mariners) saw themselves so near an unknown shore, and could not imagine what place it should be; for though they knew most of the shores of *Ireland* and *Scotland*, yet they could not possibly give any guess where they then were. Finding themselves therefore so near Land, and some little Rocks not far off them, the Master gave orders to sound what Water they had; and finding it not three Fathoms, they thought it was the best course to strike Sail, and drop an Anchor, (which accordingly they did) until they might inform themselves where they were.

And

And having caſt Anchor, they reſolved to ſet four of their eight Men aſhore, to ſee if they could learn where they were; and how to get off: which, after they had taken down their Boat, they did. The Perſons that were to goe, were the Carpenter *James Roſs*, and three Marriners, who took with them Swords and Piſtols. Preſently after Landing, they paſt through a little Wood, and within leſs than an *Engliſh* mile, in a moſt pleaſant green Valley (wherein were many Cattel, Horſes and Sheep feeding) they ſaw a very ſtrong-like Caſtle appearing, unto which they repaired, and called, thinking to find ſome that might direct them where they were, and what to do: but after they had long knockt, and ſaw, nor heard any creature, (not ſo much as a Dog) anſwer, they concluded it was ſome waſte place, and therefore left it. And going farther up a moſt pleaſant green Hill, they ſaw multitudes of black Rabbets, about a mile from the Caſtle: but when they came to the height thereof, look which way they pleaſed, they could ſee neither Man, Woman, Child, nor Houſe. At laſt, having ranged 2 or 3 hours about the Countrey, and lighting of none to enquire of, they returned again to their Boat, and told their fellows aboard, what ſucceſs they had had; whereupon their fellows calling for the Boat, reſolved to come aſhore alſo, all but one Mariner; which they did, and dividing themſelves into two parts, one part took to the right-hand ſhore, the other to the left; both parties wandring up and down, until toward 4 of the clock in the afternoon, but neither of them ſaw any people to enquire of; but much Cattel, Dear, Rabbets, *&c.* But afar off in the Countrey, they ſaw great Woods, into which they durſt not venture: ſo that both parties returned again to their Boat. At laſt the weather being very

ry cold, and drawing towards night, finding abundance of old dry Wood, in the ſide of the above-named little Wood, near unto the ſhore, they reſolved to make a great Fire, againſt a great old Oak, that was fallen down with age; and in order thereunto, ſome brought Wood, and ſome others ſtruck fire: at laſt, having made a rowzing Fire, and ſitting warming themſelves, diſcourſing, and taking Tobacco; of a ſuddain they heard a moſt terrible, hideous noiſe, towards that place; eſpecially where they ſaw the old Caſtle, and almoſt all over the Iſland, which did ſo terrify and amaze them, that they preſently left their Fire, took their Boat, and went all aboard as faſt as they could; where they continued in great fear all night: yet neither could, nor durſt ſtir out to Sea; becauſe when they ſounded again, they had not two fathoms of Water, and the wind directly againſt them.

The next morning, as ſoon as the Sun was riſen, they ſaw a very antient grave Gentleman, and ten Men following him bare-headed (as if his ſervants) coming towards the ſhore where the Ship lay, and being come cloſe o the water ſide, the old Gentleman calling to the Maſter (in the old Scotch Language) who with the reſt ſtood upon the Deck, askt him, from whence they came? whither they were bound? and with what they were laden? The Maſter anſwered, They came from *France*, were laden with *French* Wines, with which they were bound to *Killy-beggs*, in the County of *Dunegall* in *Ireland*, if it pleaſed God to give them leave; then the old Gentleman askt them, how they came thither? and whether they knew where they were? or how to get forth? The Maſter told him, that before the great Fogg fell upon them yeſterday, they thought they were near the coaſt of *Ireland*: but where they now were, or how

to

to get off, he knew not in the leaſt. Then' the grave Gentleman told them, if they would pleaſe to come aſhore again, they ſhould be courteouſly entertained, told where they were, well rewarded, and guided to their own coaſt. Then the Maſter askt whether they ſhould have no wrong or harm done to themſelves, nor Veſſel, if they came aſhore? the old man promiſed they ſhould not: whereupon, the Maſter and the reſt, ſeeing no Arms with them, reſolved, ſix of them ſhould come aſhore, well armed.

Aſſoon as they were landed, the old Gentleman embraced them one by one; telling them, they were the moſt happy ſight that Iſland had ſeen ſome hundred of years; that the Iſland was called *O Brazile*; that his Anceſtors were ſometimes Princes of it; telling them alſo, that he and ſeveral other perſons of quality, by the malicious, diabolical Art, of a great Negromancer, had been tyrannically ſhut up in the Caſtle they knockt at yeſterday, in which, ſeveral of their Progenitors had ended their miſerable days; and the whole Iſland, a Receptacle of Furies, made (to Mortals) unſerviceable, and invisible, until now, that the curſed time was expired; which (ſaith he) continued until the laſt day of the laſt month, but 3 or 4 days ſince. Being asked, why none anſwered in the Caſtle yeſterday, when the Marriners knockt ſo long? he anſwered, that though the wicked time was expired, and that now the Iſland was viſible, and any might come upon it; yet he and the reſt had neither power to anſwer any that ſpoke to them, nor free themſelves from impriſonment, until Fire was kindled upon the Iſland by ſome good Chriſtians. Being askt, whether it was now abſolutely free, and would never be inchanted again? he told them, it was now abſolutely

ſolutely free; and ſhould never be troubled again: but all the powers of darkneſs, when they heard that hideous noiſe, were finally departed.

After which words, he led them towards the ſaid Caſtle; (the chief Tower being, as it were demoliſhed) where met them, ſeveral other grave perſons, both Men and Women: who all embraced the Maſter, and the reſt, giving them many thanks; then the other two were fetcht out of the Veſſel, and all nobly Feaſted, and Richly rewarded, and ſhewed the Glory and Riches of the ſaid Iſland, which they ſay is above 60 miles in length, and above 30 in breadth; abounding with Horſes, Cows, Sheep, Staggs, Rabbets, but no Swine, and all ſorts of Fowls; and rich Mines of Silver and Gold, but few People, and little or no Corn: there have been Cities and great Towns, but all conſumed.

The Men being richly rewarded, were conducted to their Veſſel, and ſhewed the way out of the Harbor, and directed the way to their own Coaſt; and came the next day at night to *Killy-beggs*, where they acquainted the Miniſter of the Town, and many other perſons of quality in the Countrey, who gave no extraordinary credit to their words at firſt, until the Maſter and the reſt ſhewed them many of the pieces of Gold and Silver, which were given them there, which were large, and of a moſt antient ſtamp, ſomewhat ruſty, yet pure Gold; the Maſter alſo offering immediately, to carry any Gentlemen to the ſaid Iſland, that deſired to know the further truth. Whereupon ſome Gentlemen of the Countrey, within three days after, ſent out another Veſſel, and the above-named *Alexander Johnſon*, Skipper, and ſome of the former Marriners to guide her, to prove whether it were true or no; who brought them to the ſaid Iſland; where they

they were nobly entertained, and returned in ſafety, with ſeveral Gifts, which were beſtowed upon them: as alſo ſome further Relation of the nature of the Countrey. Since then, ſeveral Godly Miniſters and others, are gone to viſit, and diſcourſe them (but at the writing hereof, I heard nothing of their return) who, doubtleſs, will bring a more perfect relation. Dear Couſen, you need not be afraid to relate this, for I aſſure you, beſide the general diſcourſe of the Gentlemen in the Countrey, I had it from Captain *Niſbet* his own mouth, (whoſe the Veſſel, *&c.* was) ſince which, ſeveral Gentlemen have ſent an expreſs, with the true Relation of it, under their Hands and Seals, to ſome eminent perſons in *Dublin*. Thus not troubling you any further at preſent, I reſt,

Londonderry,
March 14. 1674.

Your

Moſt affectionate Couſen

and Servant,

William Hamilton.

Dear Couſen, I think your young Couſen Leſly *is ſtill in* London, *if you can enquire him out, pray ſhew him this Relation; it may be it may concern him, becauſe his Father had a Patent for it.*

W. H.

FINIS.